

WYCOMBE'S TURN FOR THE LUCK IN REPLAY

By CHILTERN

St. Albans City 0, Wycombe Wanderers 3

LOOKING a rejuvenated side from that which drew with St. Albans the previous week, Wycombe Wanderers swept into the quarter finals of the F.A. Amateur Cup competition on Saturday, having very little trouble in winning this third round replay at Clarence Park.

Apart from a few isolated raids, St. Albans were a shadow of the side that forced a draw at Loakes Park a fortnight ago. And in front of the biggest crowd for four years at St. Albans, Wy-

combe played good, solid, man to man football.

It was a no-nonsense win. Wanderers completely dominated the play for long periods, and their first bit of luck came in the 35th minute when a pass to Nisbett was deflected by the referee, straight to the feet of Les Merrick.

With the whole St. Albans defence going the wrong way, Merrick nipped through and scored with a terrific shot from at least 30 yards. It was a fine piece of opportunism of the kind that has given him nine league and cup goals since he joined the first team on November 19.

Wycombe's forwards looked a compact unit, interchanging bewilderingly and combining well. The defence was solid, and made few mistakes.

St. Albans were unlucky to lose Smith, their left-winger, who scored their goal at Wycombe, in the 28th minute. He returned after 12 minutes to be a semi-passenger for the rest of the game. He had a cut in his knee stitched after the match.

The home side's second piece of bad luck was when the referee impeded their play to give Merrick his goal.

Wycombe started the second-

half as if they meant to press home their advantage, and John Beck went close before Tony Horseman put Wycombe two up with a fine first-time shot.

The move was instigated by Bates on the right who crossed to Merrick who in turn hit the ball across the goalmouth to Horseman.

With Bates switching from wing to wing, and wearing a number nine shirt, he was a constant thorn in the St. Albans' defence, and Samuels, Horseman and Merrick, Wycombe's other forwards, all had good games.

Seventeen minutes after half-time Wycombe put the issue beyond doubt. Again it was Bates who started it off, beating his full-back and squaring the ball across the goalmouth low and hard.

FINE SHOT

It was half-cleared by Lawrence, and there was Samuels waiting on the edge of the penalty area to blast it home. A fine shot following a fine move.

Bates stood out a mile in the second-half, and Merrick and Horseman worked well together on the left. With Samuels combining well with the half-backs, this was one of the best forward displays for a long time by Wycombe.

The defence was strong all round with Rundle, Gale and Bradshaw all outstanding, and Baker once more doing a tremendous amount of work.

Maskell looked safe in goal, making some particularly good clearances in the air.

If Wycombe play like this against Hendon in the quarter final tomorrow, they will certainly not be easy to meat for the cup holders.